

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The listing of claims which follows will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) An external segment of a telescoping handle comprising:  
a member with an external surface and an internal surface;  
a hole through the member extending from the internal surface to the external surface, the  
hole configured to receive a locking pin; and  
a reinforcing mechanism inserted inside the hole, secured to the member, the reinforcing  
mechanism having a height substantially greater than a thickness of the external segment and  
residing flush with an internal surface of the external segment and not projecting beyond the  
internal surface, wherein the reinforcing mechanism is configured to reinforce the hole in such a  
manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.
2. (Currently Amended) The external segment of claim 1, wherein the internal surface  
comprises further comprising an internal surface comprising an L-shaped recess surrounding the  
hole and ~~an~~ the exterior external surface ~~comprising~~ comprises a raised lip surrounding the hole,  
wherein the recess of the internal surface and the raised lip of the exterior external surface form a  
shoulder.

3. (Previously Presented) The external segment of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing mechanism further comprises a washer.

4. (Currently Amended) The external segment of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing mechanism comprises:

a main body residing adjacent to the hole ~~of the external segment~~ through the member;  
and

a lower portion extending orthogonally from the main body and residing flush with the internal surface ~~of the external segment~~ of the member; and

an upper portion extending in a curvature from the main body, the curvature residing adjacent to an exterior external surface ~~of the external segment~~ of the member.

5. (Currently Amended) The external segment of claim 1, wherein the entire reinforcing mechanism resides below the internal surface ~~of the external segment~~ of the member in a direction radially within the internal surface ~~of the external segment~~ of the member.

6. (Original) The external segment of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing mechanism comprises a height selected to aid the distribution of the forces imparted by the locking pin.

7. (Currently Amended) The external segment of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing mechanism is positioned to not impede the movement of an internal segment with an external surface adjacent to the internal surface of the member. ~~external segment is constructed using a first material, the reinforcing mechanism is constructed using a second material, and wherein the second material is stronger than the first material.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The external segment of claim [[7]] 1, wherein the member is constructed from first material is aluminum.
9. (Currently Amended) The external segment of claim [[7]] 1, wherein the reinforcing mechanism is constructed from second material is stainless steel.
10. (Currently Amended) The external segment of claim 1, wherein the member further comprising comprises a plurality of holes, and for each of the plurality of holes, a reinforcing mechanism is inserted inside the hole, secured to the member, and configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.
11. (Currently Amended) A telescoping handle, comprising:  
an inner segment, the inner segment comprising a locking pin; and  
an external segment, the external segment comprising:  
a member with an external surface and an internal surface;  
a hole through the member extending from the internal surface to the external surface, the hole configured to receive the locking pin; and  
a reinforcing mechanism inserted inside the hole, secured to the member, having a height substantially greater than a thickness of the external segment and residing flush with an internal surface of the external segment and not projecting beyond the internal surface, wherein the reinforcing mechanism is and configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.

12. (Currently Amended) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the internal surface comprises ~~further comprising an internal surface comprising~~ an L-shaped recess surrounding the hole and ~~an~~ the exterior external surface comprising ~~comprises~~ a raised lip surrounding the hole, wherein the recess of the internal surface and the raised lip of the ~~exterior external~~ surface form a shoulder.

13. (Previously Presented) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the reinforcing mechanism further comprises a washer.

14. (Currently Amended) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the reinforcing mechanism comprises:

a main body residing adjacent to the hole ~~of the external segment~~ through the member;  
and

a lower portion extending orthogonally from the main body and residing flush with the internal surface ~~of the external segment~~ of the member; and

an upper portion extending in a curvature from the main body, the curvature residing adjacent to an ~~exterior external surface of the external segment~~ of the member.

15. (Currently Amended) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the entire reinforcing mechanism resides below the internal surface ~~of the external segment~~ of the member in a direction radially within the internal surface ~~of the external segment~~ of the member.

16. (Original) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the reinforcing mechanism comprises a height selected to aid the distribution of the forces imparted by the locking pin.

17. (Currently Amended) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the reinforcing mechanism is positioned to not impede the movement of the inner segment. ~~external segment is constructed using a first material, the reinforcing mechanism is constructed using a second material, and wherein the second material is stronger than the first material.~~
18. (Currently Amended) The telescoping handle of claim [[17]] 11, wherein the member is constructed from first material ~~is~~ aluminum.
19. (Currently Amended) The telescoping handle of claim [[17]] 11, wherein the reinforcing mechanism is constructed from second material ~~is~~ stainless steel.
20. (Original) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the inner segment is configured to slide within the external segment between an extended position and a collapsed position.
21. (Previously Presented) The telescoping handle of claim 20, wherein the locking pin is configured to engage the hole when the inner segment is in the extended position.
22. (Previously Presented) The telescoping handle of claim 20, wherein the locking mechanism is configured to engage the hole when the inner segment is in the collapsed position.
23. (Previously Presented) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the external segment comprises a first material, and the locking pin comprises a second material that is stronger than the first material.
24. (Previously Presented) The telescoping handle of claim 23, wherein the second material is stainless steel.

25. (Original) The telescoping handle of claim 11, further comprising an engagement mechanism configured to allow the locking pin to be engaged with and disengaged from the hole.

26. (Currently Amended) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the ~~external segment member~~ further comprises a plurality of holes, and for each of the plurality of holes, a reinforcing mechanism is inserted inside the hole, secured to the member, and configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.

27. (Currently Amended) The telescoping handle of claim 11, further comprising a plurality of telescoping handles, each of the telescoping handles comprising:

an inner segment, the inner segment comprising a locking pin; and

an external segment, the external segment comprising:

a member with an external surface and an internal surface;

a hole through the member extending from the internal surface to the external surface, the hole configured to receive the locking pin; [[,]] and

a reinforcing mechanism inserted inside the hole, secured to the member, and not projecting beyond the internal surface, wherein the reinforcing mechanism is configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.

28. (Currently Amended) A transporting device, comprising:

a telescoping handle, the telescoping handle comprising:

an inner segment, the inner segment comprising a locking pin; and

an external segment, the external segment comprising:

a member with an external surface and an internal surface;

a hole through the member extending from the internal surface to the external surface, the hole configured to receive the locking pin; and

a reinforcing mechanism inserted inside the hole, secured to the member,  
~~having a height substantially greater than a thickness of the external segment and residing flush with the internal surface of the external segment~~ and not projecting beyond the internal surface,  
wherein the reinforcing mechanism is configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.

29. (Currently Amended) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the internal surface comprises ~~external segment further comprises an internal surface comprising~~ an L-shaped recess surrounding the hole, and ~~an~~ the exterior external surface comprising comprises a raised lip surrounding the hole, wherein the recess of the internal surface and the raised lip of the ~~exterior external~~ external surface form a shoulder.

30. (Previously Presented) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the reinforcing mechanism further comprises a washer.

31. (Currently Amended) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the reinforcing mechanism comprises:

a main body residing adjacent to the hole ~~of the external segment~~ through the member;  
and

a lower portion extending orthogonally from the main body and residing flush with the internal surface ~~of the external segment~~ of the member; and

an upper portion extending in a curvature from the main body, the curvature residing adjacent to an ~~exterior~~ external surface ~~of the external segment of the member~~.

32. (Currently Amended) The transporting device of claim 28, ~~wherein the external segment further comprises an internal surface that comprises a recess surrounding the hole, and wherein the entire~~ reinforcing mechanism resides below the internal surface ~~of the external segment of the member~~ in a direction radially within the internal surface ~~of the external segment of the member~~.

33. (Original) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the reinforcing mechanism comprises a height selected to aid the distribution of the forces imparted by the locking pin.

34. (Currently Amended) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the reinforcing mechanism is positioned to not impede the movement of the inner segment, ~~the external segment is constructed using a first material, and wherein the reinforcing mechanism is constructed using a second material that is stronger than the first material~~.

35. (Currently Amended) The transporting device of claim ~~[[34]]~~ 28, wherein the member is constructed from ~~first material~~ is aluminum.

36. (Currently Amended) The transporting device of claim ~~[[34]]~~ 28, wherein the reinforcing mechanism is constructed from ~~second material~~ is stainless steel.

37. (Original) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the inner segment is configured to slide within the external segment between an extended position and a collapsed position.



38. (Original) The transporting device of claim 37, wherein the locking pin is configured to engage the hole when the internal segment is in the extended position.
39. (Original) The transporting device of claim 37, wherein the locking mechanism is configured to engage the hole when the internal mechanism is in the collapsed position.
40. (Previously Presented) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the external segment comprises a first material, and wherein the locking pin comprises second material that is stronger than the first material.
41. (Previously Presented) The transporting device of claim 40, wherein the second material is stainless steel.
42. (Original) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the telescoping handle further comprises an engagement mechanism configured to allow the locking pin to be engaged with and disengaged from the hole.
43. (Currently Amended) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the ~~external segment~~ member further comprises a plurality of holes, and for each of the plurality of holes, a reinforcing mechanism is inserted inside the hole, secured to the member, and configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.
44. (Currently Amended) The transporting device of claim 28, further comprising a plurality of telescoping handles, each of the telescoping handles comprising:
- an inner segment, the inner segment comprising a locking pin; and
  - an external segment, the external segment comprising:

a member with an external surface and an internal surface;

a hole through the member extending from the internal surface to the external surface, the hole configured to receive the locking pin; [[,]] and

a reinforcing mechanism inserted inside the hole, secured to the member, and not projecting beyond the internal surface, wherein the reinforcing mechanism is configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.

45. (Previously Presented) A telescoping handle, comprising:

an inner segment and an external segment, the external segment telescopically receiving the inner segment so that the inner segment is telescopically extendable from the external segment along a longitudinal axis of the external segment;

the inner segment having a locking pin outwardly extending therefrom;

the external segment having a side wall having a hole therethrough, the locking pin being extendable through the hole;

an exterior surface of the side wall having an annular raised lip extending along a periphery of the hole;

an interior surface of the side wall having an annular recess along the periphery of the hole, the recess having a generally L-shaped cross-sectional contour taken along the plane extending through the longitudinal axis of the external segment;

an annular washer positioned against the raised lip and having an outer perimeter with a radius substantially equal to the outer radius of the raised lip;

an eyelet having a middle portion extending through the hole and the washer, and an outer portion outwardly extending from the hole with a curved outer edge curling back towards and in contact with the washer;

the eyelet further having an inner portion extending into the recess of the interior surface of the side wall with an exposed face of the inner portion of the eyelet lying substantially flush with the inner face of the side wall; and

the raised portion, washer and eyelet affording additional support to the side wall of the first tubular member to help reduce deformation of the hole by the locking pin when extended through the hole.

46. (Previously Presented) The telescoping handle of claim 45, wherein the raised portion, washer and eyelet provide additional support to the side wall of the first tubular member to afford an increase by at least 16.5% to a maximum tensile load that can be exerted on the telescoping handle before deformation of the hole.